

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 L-03

FRB-03 OMB-01 ITC-01 SP-02 USIA-06 AGRE-00 AID-05

CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-07 IO-13 LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02

SIL-01 STR-04 TRSE-00 CIEP-01 CEA-01 PM-04 NSC-05

SS-15 H-01 PA-01 PRS-01 INT-05 /138 W

-----211954Z 001007 /40

R 211756Z JAN 77

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4684

INFO ALL OECD CAPITALS 141-142

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 GENEVA 420

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: UNCTAD
SUBJECT: FIRST UNCTAD PREPARATORY MEETING ON NATURAL RUBBER

SUMMARY: FIRST UNCTAD PREPARATORY MEETING ON RUBBER
CHARACTERIZED BY RELATIVE ABSENCE OF POLITICAL POLEMICS
AND FULL AND FRANK EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND VIEWS ON
MATTERS OF SUBSTANCE. PARTICIPANTS AGREED TO RECONVENE
THE MEETING IN THE SPRING TO DISCUSS WITHOUT PRIOR COM-
MITMENT THE ELEMENTS OF POSSIBLE INTERNATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS
IN ACCORDANCE WITH RESOLUTION 93(IV). END SUMMARY.

1. THE FIRST PREPARATORY MEETING ON NATURAL RUBBER (NR)
UNDER THE TERMS OF UNCTAD RESOLUTION 93(IV) TOOK PLACE IN
GENEVA JANUARY 17-21 IN A CONSTRUCTIVE AND PRAGMATIC ATMOS-
PHERE THAT WAS REMARKABLY FREE OF IDEOLOGICAL POLEMICS AND
POLITICAL POSTURING. SOME 55 COUNTRIES REPRESENTING THE
MAJOR PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS OF NATURAL RUBBER ATTENDED
THE MEETING. A NUMBER OF MINOR PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS
FROM BOTH THE DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING WORLDS WERE ALSO
PRESENT. THE MEETING INCLUDED OBSERVERS FROM THE MAJOR IF'S
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AND A NUMBER OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS THE
INTERNATIONAL RUBBER STUDY GROUP (IRSG) AND THE FAO. THE
FRENCH DELEGATE (BOUTRY) WAS ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF THE PLENARY.
SIGNIFICANTLY, HE IS ALSO CURRENTLY CHAIRMAN OF THE IRSG.

2. IN ADDITION TO THE ABSENCE OF POLITICAL SPEECHMAKING,
NR MEETING HAD A NUMBER OF EXCEPTIONAL FEATURES INCLUDING:
-- A DELIBERATELY LOW PROFILE ON THE PART OF THE UNCTAD
SECRETARIAT AND G-77. UNCTAD COMMODITIES DIRECTOR CHIDZERO
TOLD USDEL (HEWITT) PRIVATELY THAT THERE HAD BEEN A
CONSCIOUS EFFORT TO KEEP A LOW PROFILE IN THE CASE OF NR,
AND THAT IF IT SEEMED FRUITFUL THIS APPROACH MIGHT BE
EXTENDED TO OTHER COMMODITIES. SEVERAL LDC CONSUMERS
SUCH AS IRAN, EGYPT AND VENEZUELA PLAYED A SUPPORTING
ROLE AND SPOKE IN FAVOR PRODUCER POSITIONS, BUT ON THE
WHOLE THEIR ONE WAS MODERATE. THE TERM "POLITICAL WILL"
WAS USED ONLY ONCE DURING THE WEEK, BY UNCTAD SEC GEN COREA
IN HIS OPENING REMARKS.

-- A CLEAR TENDENCY OF THE MAJOR PRODUCERS TO SERVE THEIR OWN INTERESTS BEFORE THOSE OF UNCTAD AND THE G-77

AMBASSADOR ALATAS OF INDONESIA, WHO IS G-77 COORINATOR IN GENEVA, WAS THE MAIN SPOKESMAN FOR PRODUCERS, BUT HE WAS OBVIOUSLY PUTTING PRODUCER ECONOMIC INTERESTS AND THOSE OF HIS OWN GOVERNMENT FAR AHEAD OF BROADER G-77 CONCERNS. THE UNCTAD SECRETARIAT TABLED A PAPER ON A POSSIBLE BUFFER STOCK AGREEMENT FOR NR, BUT IT WAS IGNORED BY PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS ALIKE, AND WAS NOT EVEN MENTIONED DIRECTLY IN THE FINAL CONCLUSIONS OF THE MEETING.

-- AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND INFORMATION ON SUBSTANCE IN THE FIELD OF NR OCCUPYING FULLY HALF THE TIME OF THE MEETING AND EXTENDING BEYOND THE MEETING HALL. TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC EXPERTS ON BOTH SIDES WERE BROUGHT INTO PLAY, AND MADE A GENUINE CONTRIBUTION TO - BROADER COMMON UNDER- LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STANDING OF THE PROBLEMS OF NR. INDUSTRY ADVISORS ATTACHED TO US DEL PERFORMED YEOMAN SERVICE, EXPLOITING PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS OF MANY YEARS STANDING WITH PRODUCER OPPOSITE NUMBERS. IRSG SEC GEN BATEMAN ALSO DELIVERED STATEMENT SURVEYING RUBBER SITUATION AND DESCRIBING IRSG FUNCTIONS. ANRPC STABILIZATION AGREEMENT WAS THE MAIN FOCUS OF THIS DIALOGUE, AND, WHILE MUCH REMAINS TO BE LEARNED ABOUT IT, PRODUCER ANSWERS TO OUR QUESTIONS WERE FRANK AND BALANCED. IT WAS AGREED BY THE MEETING THAT THE ANRPC AGREEMENT CONSTITUTES "A SIGNIFICANT AND CONSTRUCTIVE CONTRIBUTION TO OUR UNDERSTANDING OF A BASIC PROBLEM OF THE INTERNATIONAL RUBBER MARKET" AND "AN IMPORTANT BASIS FOR SERIOUS CONSIDERATION OF BROADER INTERNATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS ON NATURAL RUBBER".

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 L-03
FRB-03 OMB-01 ITC-01 SP-02 USIA-06 AGRE-00 AID-05
CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-07 IO-13 LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02

SIL-01 STR-04 TRSE-00 CIEP-01 CEA-01 PM-04 NSC-05

SS-15 H-01 PA-01 PRS-01 INT-05 /138 W

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R 211756Z JAN 77

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4685

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3. OTHER MAJOR CONCLUSIONS OF THE MEETING WERE:

-- AGREEMENT THAT A PHASE OF BASIC ECONOMIC STUDY AND ANALYSIS CARRIED OUT BY A GROUP OF EXPERTS IS NOT REQUIRED IN THE CASE OF NR PARTLY BECAUSE OF AN ADEQUATE BODY OF INFORMATION AND ANALYSIS ALREADY EXISTS, AND PARTLY BECAUSE IT HAS PROVEEN POSSIBLE TO DISCUSS SUBSTANCE IN THE PLENARY WITHOUT POLITICALLY MOTIVATED INTER-FERENCE.

-- AGREEMENT TO RECONVENE THE PLENARY IN APRIL OR MAY TO DISCUSS WITHOUT PRIOR COMMITMENT "SPECIFIC PROPOSALS AND IDENTIFY THE POSSIBLE ELEMENTS...OF INTERNATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH RESOLUTION 93(IV)". THE SPRING PLENARY WILL BE IMMEDIATELY PRECEDED BY A SHORT MEETING OF A SMALL WORKING GROUP OF PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS WHICH WILL CONSIDER PROPOSALS FROM BOTH SIDES AND REPORT TO THE PLENARY. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT PRODUCERS WILL SUBMIT A DRAFT COMMODITY AGREEMENT TO THE WORKING GROUP, AND CONSUMERS CAN SUBMIT PROPOSALS OR POSITION PAPERS AS WELL.

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4. ALL MEMBERS OF US DEL SATISFIED WITH THE MEETING'S CONCLUSIONS, AS WERE OTHER MAJOR CONSUMER DELEGATIONS. PRODUCERS ALSO SEEMED PLEASED BY THE OUTCOME. FULL TEXT OF CONCLUSIONS BEING SENT SEPTTEL. CATTO

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3541240
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FIRST UNCTAD PREPARATORY MEETING ON NATURAL RUBBER SUMMARY: FIRST UNCTAD PREPARATORY MEETING ON RUBBER CHARACTERIZED BY RELATIVE ABSENCE OF POLITICA L POL
TAGS: OCON, EPAP, UNCTAD
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6b0e61d3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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22 May 2009
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